

# USAID Recommendations on the Revised CRSP Portfolio

Offices of Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Management

SPARE Meeting

January 19<sup>th</sup> 2006



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# ME Competitions & Incorporation of Lessons Learned from Recent Competitions

**9:00 to 10:00**



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# Key Issues...

- 1. How many CRSPs should be competed in FY '06?**
- 2. What extensions should be made to current CRSPs?**
- 3. What level of “substantial involvement” should be included in future agreements?**
- 4. What is an appropriate composition of the Technical Evaluation Committees (TEC), which will evaluate proposals?**



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# CRSP Competitions for FY '06

## Discussion Points:

- 1. Agency capacity for multiple competitions in a single year**
- 2. Impact of delaying some competitions back to FY '07**
- 3. Costs & benefits of delaying competition if subject area is already determined**



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# Recommendation

## Compete four CRSP MEs in FY '06

- Peanut
- Sorghum, Millet & Other Grains
- Aquaculture & Fisheries
- Assets & Market Access



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# Extensions to Current CRSPs

## Discussion Points:

### 1. Purpose of extensions

- Maintain critical research
- Synthesize lessons learned
- Prepare documents and data for transfer to potential new ME

### 2. Length of extensions



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# Recommendations

- 1. USAID will request that current MEs provide a proposal for the transition period identifying:**
  - Critical research to be maintained
  - Process for synthesizing lessons learned from research
  - Tasks required to provide smooth transfer of documents and data to new ME
- 2. Extensions will overlap up to 6 months following the award of the new CRSP**

**N.B. Final decisions on extensions will be determined by the Office of Acquisition & Assistance following review of technical office recommendations**



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# **‘Substantial Involvement’**

## **Discussion points:**

- 1. Lessons learned from SANREM & IPM**
- 2. Participation/involvement in existing CRSPs**
- 3. Strengthening communication and collaboration**



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# What is Substantial Involvement?

- 1. Description of anticipated Agency involvement**
- 2. Intent - to assist ME in achieving supported objectives**
- 3. Wide range of potential participation / involvement tailored to specific agreement**



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# Recommendation – limit substantial involvement to:

- 1. Approval of implementation plans for the Leader Award**
- 2. Approval of key personnel (CRSP Director)**
- 3. Agency and ME joint participation**
  - Collaborative involvement in selection of advisory committee members and USAID participation as member of committees
  - USAID participation with voice and vote but no veto in selection of sub-award recipients
  - Concurrence on the monitoring and evaluation plan



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# Composition of Technical Evaluation Committees

## Discussion Points

- 1. USAID's desire to include external experts in Proposal Review**
- 2. Logistics involved in external expert participation**
- 3. Avoidance of Conflict of Interest**



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# Recommendation

- 1. USAID will strive to have committees of four or more members**
- 2. At least one of the members should be an external technical expert**
- 3. USAID will look to the US University Community, other US Agencies, the private sector, and donor organizations for relevant experts**



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# New CRSP Portfolio, Core Program Components, & Focal Points

**10:00 to noon**



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# Revised CRSP Portfolio

## Discussion points:

- **Public feedback on research content of individual CRSPs**
- **Discussions with BIFAD**



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# Recommended Portfolio

1. Sorghum, Millet & Other Grains (2006)
  2. Peanut (2006)
  3. Aquaculture & Fisheries (2006)
  4. Assets & Market Access (2006)
  5. Dry Grain Pulses (2007)
  6. Horticulture (2007)
  7. Livestock & Poultry (2008)
- 

**2008 - Evaluation of SANREM & IPM CRSPs &  
Revisit recommendation for Soil, Water &  
Ecosystem Services CRSP**



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# Core Program Components

## Discussion Points:

- 1. Consistency with USAID's strategic direction**
- 2. Coherent approach across the portfolio**
- 3. Appropriateness of components (alternative suggestions included: reciprocal US Benefits, Impact Assessment)**
- 4. Scope and expectations of the intellectual leadership component**



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# Recommended Components

- 1. Systems Approach**
- 2. Social, Economic & Environmental Sustainability**
- 3. Capacity Building & Institutional Strengthening**
- 4. Outreach, Dissemination & Adoption**
- 5. Intellectual Leadership**



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# Intellectual Leadership

**Each CRSP is to take intellectual leadership by:**

- 1) Consolidating findings across their research activities according to themes that emerge from those activities**
- 2) Identifying topics that fit logically as sub-themes of USAID's broader 'Focal Points'**
- 3) Identifying at least one sub-theme for which they will take leadership on key learnings from CRSPs and other relevant research**



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# Focal Points

## Discussion Points:

- 1. Clarity of name ( ‘focal points’ or ‘broad impact areas’)**
- 2. Determination of Focal Points for individual CRSPs**
- 3. Alternative suggestions (poverty eradication, gender equity & women’s empowerment; health & nutrition; ag. sustainability; development partnerships & trade; economic growth; US benefits; region specific focal points)**



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# Recommendations

- 1. Rename these 'Focal Areas for Development Results'**
- 2. Current Focal Areas will be retained given their relevance to USAID's strategic direction**
- 3. Long-term research will drive Focal Area sub-themes**
- 4. Focal Area leadership will be determined through a consultative process between the ME, other CRSPs and USAID**



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